

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 9, 2005.

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 were amended. Claims 1-12 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Specification

Applicants notes Examiner's statement pertaining to the capitalization of trademarks in a patent application. In light of Examiner's remarks, Applicant has corrected the specification.

§§102 and 103 Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graham (US Patent Number 4,455,705).

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paepke (US Patent Number 5,003,659) in view of Lacey et al. (PGPub 2002/0125605).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham (US Patent Number 4,455,705) in view of Garcia (US Patent Number 5,419,015) or Paepke (US Patent Number 5,003,659) in view of Lacey et al. (PGPub 2002/0125605) as applied to claim 7 above and in further view of Garcia (US Patent Number 5,419,015).

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paepke (US Patent Number 5,003,659) in view of Lacey et al. (PGPub 2002/0125605) and Garcia

(US Patent Number 5,419,015) as applied to claim 9 above and further in view of Hortel et al. (US Patent Number 6,233,771).

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paepke (US Patent Number 5,003,659) in view of Lacey et al. (PGPub 2002/0125605) and Garcia (US Patent Number 5,419,015) as applied to claim 10 above and further in view of Hortel et al. (US Patent Number 6,233,771).

Applicant submits that the independent claim (claim 1) is patentable over Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Garcia and Hortel – taken either alone or in combination.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a cleaning device. Independent claim 1 specifies that the cleaning device comprises a cleaning member, a base plate, an ergonomic handle and a connector. Claim 1 further specifies that the connector connects the base member to the handle and the connector is capable of being disengaged for the placement of different shaped ergonomic handles and base plates. Supporting disclosure for Applicant's connector can be found throughout the specification. (See, e.g., Page 18, lines 8-15).

Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Kilburn, Garcia and Hortel do not disclose a connector that is capable of being disengaged for the placement of different shaped ergonomic handles and base plates.

Since Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Kilburn, Garcia and Hortel do not disclose a connector that is capable of being disengaged for the placement of different shaped ergonomic handles and base plates, Applicant believes that independent claim 1 is patentable over Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Kilburn, Garcia and Hortel -- taken either alone or in combination -- on at least this basis.

Claims 2-12 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Kilburn, Garcia and Hortel, claims 2-12 are believed to be patentable over Graham, Paepke, Lacey, Kilburn, Garcia and Hortel on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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